№ 28.

A Way to Prevent the Indignation & Judgments of God from coming on a Kingdom, Nation or Family;

Commended to the Consciences of all Concerned in the Sight of God, for them to Read, Weigh and Consider in the Fear and Dread of the Lord.

First, ALL you *Vintners*, that sell *Wine*, that keep *Taverns*, or such like Houses; and all you *Inn-keepers*, and you that keep *Victualling-Houses*, *Ale-houses*, *Strong-water Shops*, *&c.* see that you never let any Man or Woman have any *more Wine*, *Ale*, *Strong Drink*, *Brandy*, or *Strong-Waters*, or other *strong Liquors*, than what is for their *Health* and their *Good*; in that they may praise God for his Good Creatures. For every *Creature* of *God* is *Good*, and ought to be received with Thanksgiving.

1 Pet. 4. 3, 4, 7.

1 Timoth. 4. 4.

But if you do give or let Men or Women have so much *Wine*, *Brandy*, *strong Liquors*, *strong Beer* or *Ale*, till they be *Drunk*, or to make them *Drunk*;

1. You destroy the good *Creatures* of *God*.

2. You Destroy them that have not Power over their *Lusts*, no more than a *Rat* or a *Swine*, who will *Drink* till they are *Drunk*.

Proverb. 23. 20, 21.

3. You are a great *cause* of *Ruining* them in their *Healths* & *Estates* (and their *Children* and *Families* in their *Livelihoods*) in feeding of them in their *Lusts*, by letting them have more than doth them good; which tends to bring *God's Judgments* upon you, to your *own Destruction*.

Deutronom. 29. 19, 20.

For many, when they are full of *Wine*, *Beer* or *Strong Liquors*, then they will call for *Musick*, *Pipe* and *Harp*, and it may be their *Whores* also: And so in this, you that suffer or allow such things are *Nursers* of *Debauchery*, and *Corrupters* of *Them*, and of your own *Families* also.

Rom. 13. 13. Ephes. 5. 5, 6.

And also such Men, when they are full of *Wine* or *Strong Liquors*, and have destroyed the Creatures, by taking more than doth them good, then they are got to that height that they are ready to *Quarrel* and *Abuse*, or *Kill* or *Destroy* one another, & sometimes *Kill* other People (who do them no Harm) as they are *walking* or *travelling* in the *Streets* or *High-ways*. For when they are overcome by *strong liquors*, then are they fit and do lie open to *all manner of Wickedness*.

Who hath Wo? Who hath Sorrow? Who hath Contentions? Who hath Wounds without Cause? Who hath Rednes of Eyes?— They that tarry long at the Wine; they that go to seek mixt Wine.— At the last it biteth like a Serpent, and stingeth like an Adder. See Prov. 23. 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32.

And though you think by selling or letting People have *Wine* or *Strong Liquors* more than doth them good, or is for Health, *The more they Drink, the more Gain you think it brings you; and the more you vend your Goods, the more Profit you get*: Ah poor *Sellers*! Do not you think, that God with his All-seeing Eye doth behold you and your Actions? And cannot the Lord soon bring a *Blasting* upon all your Undertakings and such *Ungodly Gain* and *Profits*, and whatsoever you have gained by your *Covetousness* and from the *Lusts* of others, through which they do destroy their *Estates*, *Children and Families*? Will not this bring *Destruction* upon you and your *unrighteous Gain*, which you have gotten by feeding their *Lusts*? For that *Spirit* which feeds the *Destroying Lusts*, must needs be the *Destroyer*; and the *Profit* of that will not be *Gain* to *You* in the End.

Prov. 15. 3.

Job 4. 8, 9.

For are not you sensible, how many, after they have spent their Estates or part of them, they will *Run* into your *Debts* for *Wine* or strong *Liquors*, yea, such as you let have more than did or doth them good? And is not this the cause, that many *break* by *trusting*, and other ways, as before mentioned? *Trust* should be with that which is *Trusty*, which doth not *Waste* or *Destroy*; and such God will bless. And therefore take heed of letting any Man or Woman have any more *Wine* or *strong Liquors*, than what is for their *Nourishment*, *health* and *good*.

For the Drunkard & the Glutton shall come to Poverty, Prov. 23. 20, 21.

See what a dreadful *Wo* the Lord pronounced against them, *That rise up early in the morning, that they may follow* strong Drink, *that continue until night, till* Wine *inflame them: then they call for the* Harp *& the* Viol, *the* Tabret *& the* Pipe, *&c. But such regard not the work of the Lord, neither consider the operation of his hands*: A sad state! *Wo unto them that are mighty to Drink Wine, and are Men of strength to mingle strong Drink.* And therefore all are to shun such things; all are to be sober, and to mind and fear *God*, that they may Escape these *Woes*; as you may see in *Isaiah*, chap. 5.

Isaiah 5. 11, 12, 22. Ch. 28. 1, 3. Joel 1. 5. See also Deut. 29. 19, 20. Whose heart turneth away this day from the Lord our God— to add Drunkenness unto Thirst— the Lord will not spare him but the Anger of the Lord and his Jealousie shall smoke against that Man— and the Lord shal blot out his Name from under Heaven.

And therefore all *Vintners*, and such as sell *Wine*, with *Ale-houses*, *Inns* and *Victualling-houses*, who sell *Ale*, *Brandy* & *strong Liquors*, never let any one have any more than doth them *good*, and is for their *Health* (as is said before) so *that all may Eat and Drink the good Creatures of God to his Praise and Glory*; which *Drunkards* & *Gluttons* cannot, nor they who let them have the Creatures of God in Excess or Immoderately, till they are *drunk* and *surfeited*; for such do feed themselves without the Fear of God.

1 Cor. 10. 31. Ephes. 5. 18. Rom. 13. 13.

Secondly, Let all who go under the Name of *Christian Families*, train up their *Children* in the *Fear of God*, and keep themselves in the *Fear of God*, that they may keep all their *Servants* and *Families* in the *Fear of God*; out of all *Looseness* and *Wantonness* and *Vanities* and *Excess*, and from all *Drunkenness*, *Fornication*, *Whoredom* or *Uncleanness* and *Unrighteousness*, and all *Ungodliness*; that they may keep out of all those things that displease or dishonour the Lord God. And do not *nourish* up the *Lust* of the *Eye*, nor the *Pride* of *Life*, nor the *Lust* of the *Flesh*; for if you do, you *nourish* up that which is not of God the Father. And therefore to *shun* all these Evils, and to depart from them, and keeping in the *Fear* of *God*; this is the *way to bring the* Blessing *of* God *upon a* Land, Kingdom, Nation *or* Family.

1 John 2. 16.

G. F.

God will Destroy *them which* Destroy *the* Earth, *Revel.* 11. 18.
Drunkenness *makes a* Man *worse than a* Beast, *and makes a* Strong Man Weak, *and a* Wise Man *a* Fool.

This Testimony *and* Warning *was and is Owned and Subscribed to by* (*many*) Vintners *and others, concerned in the Trades and Callings before-mention'd, who were present at the reading of the Manuscript.*

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